

## OTHER NOTICES

**Field, Henry.** *The Anthropology of Iraq, Part II.* Papers of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Vol. XLVI, Nos. 1, 2 & 3. Cambridge, Mass. 1951, 1952. Peabody Museum. Pp. ix + 116; ix + 174. Price, No. 1, \$6.50, Nos. 2-3, \$6.85.

THESE two volumes complete Dr. Field's extensive work on the anthropology of Iraq, nearly thirty years after its commencement. The main body of data was collected in 1934 by the Field Museum Anthropological Expedition to the Near East, but publication has been long delayed, partly because of the years taken in classifying the data and partly because of the war: Part I appeared in 1940 and 1949 as Volume 30 of the Anthropological Series of the *Publications* of the Field Museum of Natural History. Part II deals with the Northern Jazira and Kurdistan, and presents a summary of the entire work. The larger page size of the Peabody Museum *Papers* is an advantage, and the volume is lavishly provided with photographs and tables. The only omission is that the reader has not been provided with a single map, and must refer for guidance to those in Part I.

This work can only be described as monumental. The emphasis is on the physical anthropology of the peoples of Iraq, thousands of whom have been measured, but, in the author's own words, there are "correlated studies on anthropogeography, sociology, ethnology, linguistics, folklore and customs, history, archaeology (including prehistory), medicine (including useful plants and drugs), climate, geology, botany, and zoology." The standard measurements of the head and face have been used, together with stature and sitting height; and the colour of the eyes, hair and skin have been recorded: these last observations would have been more valuable if taken in relation to the respective anthroposcopic standards of Martin, Fischer and von Luschan. The data are assembled in tables, which are open to criticism only in a few cases where the principle has been taken too far. For example, it is unnecessary to construct a table to show that of two Kurds with blindness in one eye, the left eye was blind in 50.00 per cent and the right eye in 50.00 per cent. It is also misleading to put medical data in tabular form; smallpox, for example, leaves marks for the rest of the sufferer's life, whereas other categories such as "headache" and "stomach pain" depend on conditions at the time of examination.

The author has commendably refrained from forming any final conclusions, but it would be interesting to compare his different groups by some test of general resemblance (such as the coefficient of racial likeness). It might then be easier to say

to what extent he was justified in calling the Iranian Plateau type "a new fundamental division of the white race equal in importance with the classical Nordic, Mediterranean and Alpine subdivisions of mankind." Nevertheless, despite the absence of any final synthesis of the data, Dr. Field has undoubtedly made a very valuable contribution to our knowledge of the area which he calls—conveniently if not altogether euphoniously—"the crossroads of Eurafasia."

T. W. HOSKINS.

**Hardin, Garrett.** *Biology: Its Human Implications.* San Francisco, 1952. W. H. Freeman. Pp. xii + 732. Price \$5.00.

THIS is a textbook of biology for students who will never have formal teaching in this subject. Many details are excluded so that general principles stand out clearly above the mass of facts which is their foundation. Of its kind it is an excellent book, written in an animated style by a well-informed author and illustrated by highly original, pleasing diagrams. For the layman or non-biological student, it has already been a success as an introduction to a wealth of interesting information and discussion. For serious students it is hardly appropriate, except for the fine bibliography of biological literature. For its purpose the book seems admirable, and on the whole there is excuse for the facile presentation of only the principal results of experiments, and of broad issues of controversy. There is emphasis on those aspects of biology which affect human needs and behaviour; and together with clear accounts of fertility, inheritance, soil erosion, bacteriological principles, evolution and nutrition, there are the familiar statements of the urgency of the problems raised. It is a book for non-biologists who "want to know."

ADRIAN HORRIDGE.

**Hutton, Isabel Emslie.** *The Hygiene of Marriage.* Ninth Edition. London, 1953. Heinemann Medical Books. Pp. xi + 160. Price 7s. 6d.

**Stopes, Marie.** *Enduring Passion.* Seventh Edition. London, 1953. Hogarth Press. Pp. xii + 159. Price 7s. 6d.

THE ninth edition of Dr. Isabel Hutton's *Hygiene of Marriage*, first published in 1923, has been reset and brought up to date. The author, who believes that the greater part of marital disharmony is due to "lack of education in sex hygiene" covers, in the space of less than 160 pages, all that a normal couple need to know from the time of their engagement to the climacteric. There are also chapters on sterility and its treatment, including artificial insemination, and on birth control, sterilization and abortion.

Writing on preparation for marriage, Dr. Hutton stresses the importance of good health in the prospective bride and groom and adds some sound information on hereditary tendencies to disease and to mental and physical abnormality and on consanguinity. The fully descriptive chapter headings and an adequate index make for easy reference, and the clear, matter-of-fact language is attractive.

Dr. Marie Stopes has produced a completely revised edition of *Enduring Passion*. The book is supplementary to *Married Love* which was written for young couples. *Enduring Passion* is designed for those who, in later years, find their "gallant optimism" is "confronted by solid obstacles to individual happiness, outlines of which rise cold and grey, no longer tinged by the roseate tints of dawn."

The supposition that there must be many thousands of people in this sad predicament is substantiated by a formidable list of the new editions and reprintings which have appeared since the book was first published in 1928. And there is no reason to doubt that "Enduring passion not only builds the home upon a rock and places sharpened tools in the hands, peace in the mind and joy in the heart, it endows the spirit with wings to explore the empyrean accompanied instead of alone."

There is no index, but a bibliography of the author's social, popular and scientific works is appended. K. H.

**Mace, David R.** *Hebrew Marriage: A Sociological Study*. London, 1953. Epworth. Pp. xv + 271. Price 21s.

SINCE 1935, Dr. Mace has become increasingly aware of a "serious crisis in marriage." He feels that the breakdown of the modern family as a unit can be arrested only if accepted patterns of marriage are re-examined and, where necessary, re-formulated; he refers in particular to those societies which are founded on Christian ethics. In *Hebrew Marriage* he attempts to ascertain the background from which the Christian idea of marriage has sprung. Dr. Mace argues that, since all the New Testament writers were steeped in Judaic law and tradition, their fragmentary references to marriage and the family cannot be properly understood without a thorough acquaintance with the spirit and law of the Old Testament.

His book is divided into two parts, the first being an anthropological survey of the origins of the Hebrews and their customs and laws. The author is determined to show that Hebrew culture was heavily influenced by contemporary civilizations and that there is little justification for assuming a pre-Biblical, matriarchal society. His main sources are the exponents of "higher Biblical criticism," famous for their constantly changing and highly speculative theories, a fact to which the author himself draws attention. One wonders whether this laborious analysis is necessary to the development of his theme, since his conclusions can be sustained, without much fear of opposition, on more direct evidence.

In the second part, Dr. Mace comes very much closer to presenting a "sociological study" and fulfills his ambition of "placing himself inside the Hebrew mind." In particular the chapters "Husband and Wife," "Parents and Children" and "The Misuse of Sex," are sympathetically conceived and brilliantly executed.

Dr. Mace might have eased his task, if he had had more recourse to post-Biblical Jewish literature. For example, the letter of Old Testament law conveys a totally inaccurate impression of the position of the Jewish woman in the family hierarchy. In spite of many legal disabilities, her position was, and is to this day, one of tremendous power and influence. Finally, it is perhaps a little unfair to ascribe the "dark streak of sexual asceticism" in Christian thought to misinterpretations of the New Testament. Paul, who came from "the society within which Christianity had its birth" and who exerted such a strong influence on the early Christian movement, leaves no doubt about his attitude. His rejection of sex does not really allow of any misinterpretation.

Apart from these points, *Hebrew Marriage* is a stimulating and sincere book and it is hoped that the author's conclusions will receive the attention which they so fully deserve.

J. CARLBACH.

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